



The 42nd Annual

Florida Storytelling Festival

January 22—25, 2026

Lakeside Inn, Mount Dora, Florida



“Celebrating the art and
craft of oral storytelling
through community
and connection.”



flstory.com

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Storytellers of Central Florida

Joel Ying (in memory of
Delroy & Vivienne Ying)

Enter the Raffle



Oct 2 - 4, 2026

Jonesborough, Tennessee
www.storytellingcenter.net

WELCOME!

President's Message

On behalf of the Florida Storytelling Association,

welcome to the 42nd annual Florida Storytelling Festival!

Yes, the Florida Storytelling Festival

has been serving the state of Florida with quality storytelling events and the festival for 42 years! This festival started as a camp where storytellers gathered to share stories. The Florida Storytelling Association was formed as a nonprofit by Florida storytellers to create a legacy.



Storytelling is entertaining, engaging and emotional. It can also be a powerful tool for change, connection and education. Stories stand the test of time throughout generations. It is our duty to tell stories to strengthen the link between generations and to share the age old wisdom in stories. We are grateful you have joined us at this festival.

We reach out to the youth in Florida by inviting them to participate in telling stories on the stage in Youthful Voices. FSA member storytellers perform at various venues throughout the state. Florida storytelling guilds are supported in their events. This festival welcomes the diversity of our stories. May the stories be heard and carried in your heart.

With sincerity and gratitude,
Debra Weller
FSA President



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Florida Storytelling Association

Board of Directors

Debra Weller, President
Glenda Ellis, Vice-President
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Whittier Mikkelsen

Volunteer Coordinators

Joel Ying, Festival Director
Louise O'Leary, Logistics
Robin Schulte, Story Store
Kaye Byrnes, Tellers In Schools

Glossary

Storytelling. We celebrate **stories told in the oral tradition**, person-to-person, as a live performance art and community art. A diversity of cultures, styles, and genres comes to our stages with folk tales, personal stories, historical stories, and more.

Concert. In the world of storytelling performance, we call our events “concerts.” Come listen to our storytellers perform in concerts.

Featured Tellers. Professional Storytellers invited to the Festival as our main tellers and workshop leaders. Each year, we feature National Tellers and local Florida Tellers. (Page 6)

Fringe Tellers. Late-night Fringe Concerts offer our members a chance to tell a 45-minute set of stories. Members submit their application, and 3 lucky winners are chosen at random. (Page 9)

Member Showcase. Florida Storytelling Association Members submit stories for their chance to share the stage with our Featured Tellers. (Page 8)

Guild. Storytelling Groups or “Circles” meet to swap stories and support the art of storytelling in their local areas. (Page 23)

Story Slam. It’s a contest, Saturday night. Win prizes. Tell a 5-minute story in any genre and include “I hate to say this...” Put your name in the hat. Cash Prizes! Saturday at 10:15pm.

Story Swap. This is your opportunity to share a 5 - 7 minute story. Names are drawn at random. Show up to get on the list.

Youthful Voices. Students submit applications and are chosen for our Saturday evening performance. Join us to listen to the future voices of storytelling. (Page 12)

Program Book Layout & Design by Dr. Joel Ying, MD

Front Cover Image by Robin Schulte adapted from Photo by Malcolm Yawn

Mission & Vision

The **Florida Storytelling Association** is a non-profit membership organization that supports the art and craft of oral storytelling through community and connection.

Our annual festival brings members together for listening, learning, telling, fellowship, diversity, and encouraging our youth.

Board Members & Volunteers... we need you!

Attend our Membership Meeting & Elections on Saturday at 3pm.

Learn about the work of our non-profit organization.

Consider joining the Board of Directors.

We are a member organization that relies on volunteers to expand the art and craft of oral storytelling across the state of Florida.

Storytelling Etiquette

Turn OFF or SILENCE phones and devices during storytelling programs. Please do not text or make phone calls or other activity that would distract the storyteller.

Please do not leave or enter while a story is in progress unless there is an emergency.

No flash photography or any activity that will distract the teller. We encourage pictures on social media, but please do not record or post video without express permission of tellers and FSA.

It is unethical and illegal to perform another person's original stories without permission of the storyteller/author. A storyteller's original stories (including original versions of folklore) are often copyrighted property. While the sharing of stories is encouraged, respect for the storytellers and their work is expected.

Ensure that you have proper permissions to tell a story that is not your original work. Published stories and poetry are often copyrighted, but stories and poetry in the Public Domain may be told by anyone. In certain settings (e.g., schools, libraries), copyrighted works may be shared under Fair Use.

Featured Tellers



Megan Wells is truly, madly, deeply, wildly, wholeheartedly, indubitably, supercalifragilistically IN LOVE with the art and craft of Storytelling. She has four national awards and has been a touring professional teller for thirty-five years. With a theater career behind

her, Megan marries the intimacy of story conversation with delicious theatrical timing, bringing worlds and characters vividly alive in the imagination of listeners. Part Mary Poppins and part Meryl Streep, Megan's repertoire ranges from delighting interactive folklore to the ageless deep epics. She hails from the Chicagolands with two daughters now in college finding and forming their own unique passions. www.meganwells.com



Michael Reno Harrell's natural knack for storytelling comes as a direct result of where he is from, the Southern Appalachian Mountains where storytelling is as much a part of the culture as its music. His original stories and songs intertwine seamlessly into narratives

that demonstrate that we all share common emotions and experiences and that nothing brings us together like a good laugh or a touch of nostalgia. Michael's stories, songs and artworks reflect not only the southern experience, but also American's story. His work, in whichever form it may take, all comes down to one thing ... story.

www.michaelreno.com



“**Mij Byram**’s most powerful tools are her creativity and ability to relate and communicate with any audience in her warm and humorous style,” says Roslyn Bresnick. Mij draws audiences into her stories. Whether traditional, personal or original fiction, she will introduce you to characters and images you will want to take home. She presents programs and workshops. She served on NSN staff and FSA board. Mij has been a teaching artist for the Broward Center for the Performing Arts since 2016. Add her performance experience as an improviser and standup comedian to her Children’s Creative Play Degree and you’ll find a fun, clever, and entertaining professional. www.mijbyram.com



Janel Woodland is an award-winning storyteller and graduate of the Ohio State University (Columbus, OH) where she received a bachelor’s degree in allied health. Although born and raised in Northwest Ohio, Janel currently calls the Gulf Coast of Florida home, where she can often be found creating community around a campfire through her passion for the ukulele and her gift of storytelling. Janel draws upon her love of theater, music, and nature to create a unique story experience for her audience. She specializes in ancient allegories from original cultures, tall tales, and personal stories of her blended family that are often hilarious and always heartwarming. JanelWoodland.com



George Otieno is an ICU travel nurse who started telling African stories, riddles and proverbs 5 years ago during Covid lockdown. It was mostly a way to connect with his patients and their families during those tough times. With roots in Mfangano Island in Lake Victoria, Kenya and branches all over the world, George aka Fishmonger Stories, tells stories that entertain, challenge and transform. George tells stories at Museums, Libraries, schools , graduations, weddings, festivals and even baby showers. www.youtube.com/@fishmongerstories5565

FSA Member Showcase Tellers

Thursday, January 22nd, 7pm



Cora Newcomb lives in the village of Greer, SC. She tells stories to youngsters, oldsters, and those in between, weaving magic with enchanting yarns.



Tonya Oxendine, Southern-born and battle-tested, stirs folk wisdom with real-life flavor, serving up stories seasoned with humor, heart, and hope that stay with you long after the telling.



Katie Green has been telling stories and leading workshops for over 35 years. Her work is recognized by the National Storytelling Network, NorthEast Storytellers, and Florida Storytelling Association.

Sunday, January 25th, 9am

—“Stories from the Heart”



Megan Markham Award-winning Storyteller Megan Markham is an international touring artist from Orlando, Florida. She writes original stories inspired by folk tales, fairy tales, and pagan traditions.



‘Lord’ JD Adler's life experiences, from his upbringing in a struggling steel town to travels across America, deeply influence his work, committed to exploring the human condition and the ability to find humor amidst hardship.



Judi Tarowsky, President of the West Virginia Storytelling Guild, resides in Weirton, WV. She performs original stories; fairy and Celtic tales, ghost and folk tales.

Florida Fringe Tellers

Friday, January 23rd, 9:15pm - 10pm

In the Florida Fringe, members submit their applications for a 45-minute set of stories. Three lucky winners are **chosen at random** in a live drawing.

Alexander Room



Amanda Lawrence

Packing for the Unexpected

A parent's guide to recovering lost underwear, surviving hospitalizations, escaping modern-day gingerbread houses, and letting go of the life you've planned to embrace the one that is waiting for you.

Grandview Room



Lona Bartlett

Lessons Learned, But Not Intentionally

Growing up I learned some great lessons; you can go to college with a dollar, truth is in old stories and songs, and I "herd" of spelling? Lessons, unintentionally learned.

Donnelly Room (Above Gift Shop)



Cora Newcomb

First Great Scandal of Eighteenth-Century America

A True Story of a Remarkable Woman, Nancy Randolph – A bizarre tale of first families, young love, rumors and murder in the First Great Scandal of 18th Century America.



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THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY GRANTS FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

Front Porch Tellers

Free to the local community, storytellers donate their time on the Front Porch of the Lakeside Inn.

Friday, Jan 23

10:00 am Lona Bartlett
10:30 am Glenda Ellis
11:00 am Andy Russell
11:30 am Amanda Lawrence
12:00 pm Judi Tarowsky
12:30 pm Robin Schulte

Saturday, Jan 24

10:00 am Tellem Tall
(Eric Hoepfner)
10:30 am Whittier Mikkelsen
11:00 am Katie Green
11:30 am David Fussell
12:00 pm Mary Lou Williams
12:30 pm Sandra Measles

Tell Your Story

(Look for § symbol on schedule)

Thu, 10:15pm. Ghost Stories Swap. Alexander Room.

Fri, 3pm—4pm. Liars Contest / Tall Tales. Concert Tent.
5—7 min tale tales. The stories might not be true, but the prizes are real.

Fri, 4pm—5:30pm. Swapping Grounds. Concert Tent.
5—7 min stories. Put your name in the hat.

Fri, 10:15pm. Late Night Adult Story Swap. Alexander Room.
18 years and up. Listen or share your story.

Sat, 3pm—5:30pm. Swapping Grounds. Concert Tent.
5—7 min stories. Put your name in the hat.

Sat, 10:15pm—11:30pm. Story Slam “I hate to say this...”
Alexander Room. 5 min stories. Win \$\$\$ cash prizes!

Youthful Voices (YV)

Our Youthful Voices program supports the next generation of storytellers. We reach out to the community and schools for video submissions. Winners share the main stage with our Featured Tellers. Students receive scholarships to attend the festival through generous donors like you. Thank you!

Saturday, January 24, at 7pm



Lilly Baldwin



Payton Kuhn



Marlee Porter



Ahaana Tewari



Maddie Valenta



Mitchell Yancey

*Gratitude to this year's YV sponsors: Storytellers of Central Florida (see ad, page 22)
and Dr. Joel Ying (in memory of Vivienne & Delroy Ying)*

Storytellers in Schools

Around the week of the festival and in conjunction with Florida Literacy Week, we bring professional storytellers into Lake County public schools through a generous grant from the **Charles B and Mary M McLin Foundation.**

School Field Trips

On Friday of the festival, local schools bring their students on a field trip to our concert tent to experience the festival and our storytellers.



The Tampa-Hillsborough
County Storytelling Festival

Congratulates

Virginia Rivers Youthful Voices
Scholarship Winner

Ahaana Tewari

Join us

Sat. April 18, 2026 @ 3pm at the
Seminole Heights Library for a
Storytelling Jamboree Concert
Featuring Youth Storytelling Ambassadors
and Award-Winning Storyteller

Robin Schulte

www.HCPLC.org/storytelling

2026 Festival Schedule of Events

Symbol Key: § Tell Your Story, ± Additional Cost

Yellow Highlights = Free Admission	Green Highlights = Listener’s Pass
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

4:00 - 5:00	Meet the Tellers Welcome Reception — Alexander Rm
5:00	Festival Registration & Story Store Open — Concert Tent
7:00 - 7:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening Welcome — Concert Tent Emcee Kaye Byrnes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Member Showcase Tonya Oxendine, Cora Newcomb, Katie Green</p>
8:00 - 10:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Featured Tellers Concert — Concert Tent Megan Wells, Janel Woodland, George Otieno, Mij Byram, Michael Reno Harrell</p>
10:15	<p style="text-align: center;">§ Ghost Stories Swap — Alexander Room Open Mic Story Swap — Emcee Walt Belcher</p>

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026

	Alexander Room	Grandview Room	Donnelly Room	Concert Tent	Front Porch						
9:00 - 10:30	NSA Workshop: Ozols— Golden Moments	Workshop: Wells— Story Train!	Tell & Talk — Otieno, Byram, Woodland	10—11:30 School Field Trip: K-5	10am— 1pm Front Porch Tellers						
1:00 – 2:30	NSA Workshop: Marter— Monetize Your Message	Workshop: Harrell— Scary Ghost Stories	Workshop: Otieno — Song & Repetition in Story			12—1:30 School Field Trip: 6-12					
3:00 – 4:00	§ Tall Tales Liars Contest —Concert Tent, Emcee Pat Nease										
4:00 – 5:30	§ Swapping Grounds — Concert Tent, Emcee Walt Belcher										
7:00 – 9:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Featured Tellers Concert — Concert Tent Emcee Carrie Sue Ayvar Janel Woodland, Michael Reno Harrell, Mij Byram, George Otieno, Megan Wells</p>										
9:15 - 10:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Florida Fringe Program</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; width: 33%;">Alexander Room</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 33%;">Grandview Room</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 33%;">Donnelly Room</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Amanda Lawrence</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Lona Bartlett</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Cora Newcomb</td> </tr> </table>					Alexander Room	Grandview Room	Donnelly Room	Amanda Lawrence	Lona Bartlett	Cora Newcomb
Alexander Room	Grandview Room	Donnelly Room									
Amanda Lawrence	Lona Bartlett	Cora Newcomb									
10:15	§ Adult Story Swap (18+) — Alexander Rm, Emcee Bobby Wesley										

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026

	Alexander Room	Grandview Room	Donnelly Room	Concert Tent	Front Porch
7:00 – 8:30	± On Your Own / Breakfast Social — Beauclaire Dining Rm				
9:00 – 10:30	Workshop: Harrell— Humor in Family Stories	Workshop: Byram— The Youngest Listeners		9am—10am Showcase: Wells, Woodland, Otieno	10am— 1pm Front Porch Tellers
11:00 - Noon	§ Story Social Circle — Alexander Rm				
1:00 – 2:30	Workshop: Wells— Game On!!!	Workshop: Woodland —Table to Stage	Workshop for Youthful Voices	1pm—2pm Showcase: Otieno, Byram, Harrell	
3:00—4:00	Awards & Membership Meeting — Concert Tent				
4:00 – 5:30	§ Swapping Grounds — Concert Tent, Emcee Walt Belcher				
7:00 – 7:45	Youthful Voices Concert — Concert Tent Emcee Andy Russell Lilly Baldwin, Payton Kuhn, Marlee Porter, Mitchell Yancey, Ahaana Tewari, Maddie Valenta				
8:00 – 10:00	Family Night, Featured Tellers Concert — Concert Tent Michael Reno Harrell, Mij Byram, Megan Wells, George Otieno, Janel Woodland				
10:15 - 11:30	§ Florida Story Slam — Alexander Room Theme “I hate to say this...” - Emcee Wanda Violet				

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

9:00 – 11:30	Stories from the Heart Concert — Concert Tent Emcee Cathy Fyock Member Showcase Megan Markham, JD Adler, Judi Tarowsky Featured Tellers George Otieno, Megan Wells, Janel Woodland, Michael Reno Harrell, Mij Byram
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FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

FRIDAY 9am

National Speakers Association Vilis Ozols (Alexander Room)

Golden Moments: Stories That Spark and Inspire

Every storyteller knows the magic of a golden moment—the instant when a story lands, the listener leans in, and hearts are moved. But those moments don't happen by accident. They're crafted with intention, presence, and authenticity. In this engaging 90-minute workshop, participants will explore how to uncover, shape, and deliver the golden moments in their own stories. Whether you're an emerging teller or a seasoned voice, this session will help you turn ordinary moments into extraordinary stories that shine long after they're told.

Vilis Ozols, MBA is a veteran professional speaker, leadership expert and former NCAA Division I coach. He has delivered over 1,500 paid presentations in all 50 states and 8 other countries. He is known for his engaging style and practical insights. Vilis blends humor, heart, and hard-won experience to spark connection and inspire change. He is the author of multiple leadership resources and performance programs.



Megan Wells (Grandview Room)

"STORY TRAIN"

Come with ideas... leave with new stories. This hands-on, hearts-open workshop, offers you tools to jumpstart your creativity.

Tell & Talk (Donnelly Room)

George Otieno, Mij Byram, Janel Woodland

Listen to a story and learn the art and craft of storytelling from these master storytellers. Meet the tellers. Bring your questions.

"STORIES CAN CONQUER FEAR...
THEY CAN MAKE THE HEART BIGGER." — *Ben Okri*

FRIDAY 1pm

**National Speakers Association
Joyce Marter (Alexander Room)**



From Tale to Treasure: How to Monetize Your Message

Every story is a goldmine—if you know how to unlock it. In this lively and interactive session, Joyce Marter, CSP, reveals the entrepreneurial and financial mindset shifts that will have you stepping into the life of abundance you deserve! Whether you're a budding storyteller eager to book your first paid gig or a seasoned speaker ready to expand your income streams, you'll learn proven tools from psychology and practical strategies to transform your message into prosperity. You will leave energized, inspired, and equipped to turn your passion into profit!

Joyce Marter, LCPC, CSP is a globally recognized speaker, licensed psychotherapist, Forbes contributor, and award-winning author who inspires audiences with her heart-centered delivery and practical strategies for success. Her award-winning book, *The Financial Mindset Fix*, has won eight book awards.

Michael Reno Harrell (Grandview Room)

Pump Up The Scary In Your Ghost Stories

Here we will endeavor to find ways to not only find subject matter that intensifies the fright factor in our ghost stories, but how we can control the environment to enhance the listener's experience.

George Otieno (Donnelly Room)

Using Songs and Repetition in Storytelling

Songs, rhymes, and repetition in oral storytelling enrich storytelling by allowing listeners to easily recall key themes and messages. They create a sense of familiarity and anticipation, encouraging audience participation as they join in the chorus or repetition. This interactive aspect fosters a communal atmosphere, strengthening connections among storytellers and listeners. Continuous use of these techniques not only captivates the audience but also aids in language development and cognitive skills.

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY 9am

Micheal Reno Harrell (Alexander Room)

“Using Humor In Family Stories”

In this discussion we will explore some of the ways to put together family stories for fun and entertainment based on events both real and imagined. By the use of exaggerated character traits and embellished situations we will help the teller create stories based in the humor of family dynamics. Whether for simply sharing with one’s own family or for the stage, this workshop is designed to help the teller find the humor in family situations.

Mij Byram (Grandview Room)

“The Youngest Listeners”

Telling stories with children aged 2-8. Learn how to get and hold their focus without magic, mayhem and a million props. Create energy and excitement and still be in control. Plant the seeds of creativity, self-worth and social understanding.

Showcase Performance (Concert Tent)

Megan Wells, Janel Woodland, George Otieno

Storytelling performance by our Featured Tellers



Visit our archive of photos at
flstory.com/about-us/
Gratitude to the official photographer
for the Florida Storytelling Festival.
malcolmyawn.com



Thank you to the Audio/Video
Production Company that keeps the
sound and lights running behind the
scenes. Special thanks to Ronn
Redd. Accent-AV.com

SATURDAY 1pm

Megan Wells (Alexander Room)

“GAME ON!!”

In the world of theater, Viola Spolin was the powerhouse of Theatre games. These fun (and often laugh out loud) community games develop voice, body, face, heart, and trust – the Big Five for Storytellers.

Janel Woodland (Grandview Room)

“TABLE TO STAGE: Converting dinner party anecdotes to crafted stories.”

Come with an anecdote you share at parties, and leave with a story you can tell from the stage.

Showcase Performance (Concert Tent)

George Otieno, Mij Byram, Micheal Reno Harrell

Storytelling performance by our Featured Tellers

“GREAT STORIES HAPPEN TO THOSE
WHO CAN TELL THEM.” — *Ira Glass*

Join FSA... volunteer, donate, lead a project, start a group, produce an event, join the board, and expand storytelling into your local communities.

Grants We Award

The Florida Storytelling Association (FSA) awards grants to individual members and groups. Details and application online: flstory.com/apply



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Hiawassee, GA

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Featuring: Antonio Rocha, Connie Regan-Blake, Peter Cook, Lyn Ford, and Gene Tagaban

gamountainstoryfest.org



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NETWORKING EVENTS

Thu, 4pm—5pm. Welcome Reception “Meet the Tellers.”

Alexander Room. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres with Featured Tellers.

Sat, 7:30am-8:30am. Breakfast Social. Beauclaire Dining Room.

All welcome. Pay on your own.

Sat, 11am—noon. Story Social Circle, Alexander Room.

Join the informal circle to listen or share stories.

Sat, 3pm—4pm. FSA Awards & Membership Meeting.

Concert Tent. President’s report, Board Member election, and future directions. Join us to learn more about FSA.

Honoring Voices Lost in 2025

Melinda Ann “Mindy” Munger, a long-time member of the Florida Storytelling Association, passed away in November at 79. She served as president of the Florida Storytelling Guild (1990-91) before it became the Florida Storytelling Association. She was the Story Camp Director, and in 2007, she received the FSA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mary Webster, a co-founder of the annual Bean Soup & Stories event in Jacksonville passed away in September at age 93. She was a beloved storyteller and FSA member who helped start the Jacksonville Northside Storytelling League in the late 1980s. She was awarded the Ambassador of Storytelling Award.

Eugene (Gene) Q. Belote, 91, of Dunedin, Florida, passed away in February. Gene and his wife Maureen were active members of the Tampa Bay Storytellers’ Guild, where Gene served as treasurer. Gene was in the Member Showcase at the 2016 Festival.



Monthly Meetings

1st Tuesday of the month 7 pm
 Winter Park Public Library
 lgoleary@yahoo.com
 407-715-8129



Artists Standing Strong Together (ASST, "assist") is a nonprofit artist support organization whose mission is to connect artists with resources.

We believe that by serving our community of artists, we serve our art.

Website: asst.art



NSN Membership Benefits

- ⇒ Storytelling Directory
- ⇒ Special Interest Groups
- ⇒ Access to Greenwood's World Folklore & Folklife Database
- ⇒ Storytelling Conferences
- ⇒ and more ...

Florida Storytelling Association is a member of NSN.

Get your FSA member discount. Join the national storytelling community at storynet.org.



St. Petersburg, FL

SuncoastStorytellers.org

Florida Storytelling Groups

FSA Member Groups, Guilds, and Circles meet to support the art and craft of storytelling in their local areas by swapping stories and hosting events.

Story Crafters Gathering

Online / Zoom
Second Tuesdays 7pm. Two different storyteller gets 30 minutes to share and work their story with the group in a facilitated safe space.
Janel Woodland
janelwoodland@gmail.com

Orlando Story Club

Orlando, FL
Danielle Ziss, 321-247-1930
danielleziss@gmail.com
OrlandoStoryClub.com

Sandcastle Storytellers

Lake Helen, FL
Gia/Peter Giachetti
386-789-4259, gia184@aol.com

Song & Story

Center for Arts & Culture
Amelia Island, FL
Songandstoryarts.org

Storytellers of Central Florida

Winter Park, FL
Louise O'Leary
lgoleary@yahoo.com

Suncoast Storytellers

St. Petersburg, FL
Ross Tarr, 727-418-5578
rosstarr@aol.com
www.suncoststorytellers.org

Tale Tellers of St. Augustine

St. Augustine, FL
Kathy Kniery, 386-385-3600
kkniery@gmail.com
www.taletellers.org

Tamiami Tale Tellers

Fort Myers, FL
Marilyn Graham, mlginfm19@gmail.com
storytellingtimes.org/ttt

Tampa Bay Storytellers Guild

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Tampa-Hillsborough County Storytelling Festival

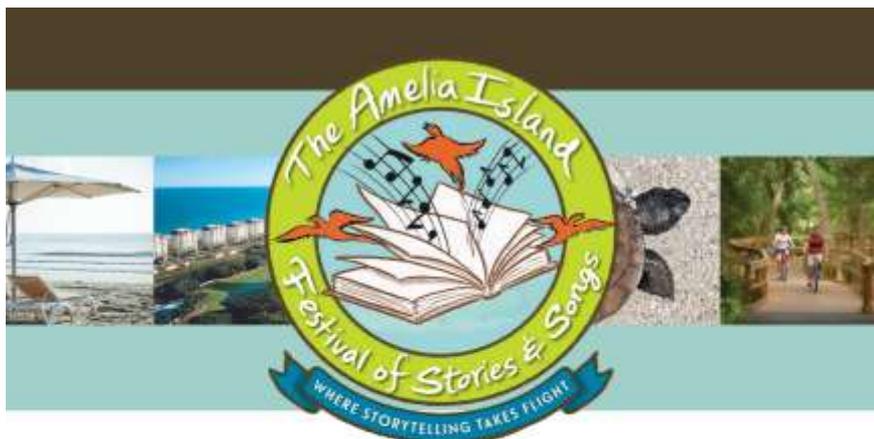
Tampa, FL
Katie Adams
katesshow@aol.com

Write To Be Scene, Inc.

Orlando, FL
Pamela Belitch 407-917-8110
pamela.belitch@writetobescene.org
writetobescene.org

Start your own guild...

Each guild membership in the Florida Storytelling Association gets a scholarship for a Full Festival Pass to send someone who has not been to the festival before, a listing on our website, grant opportunities, and a community to celebrate stories.



January 29- February 1, 2026

**A full weekend of exciting events
for storytelling fans of all ages!**



**Andy Offutt
Irwin**



**Carmen
Agra Deedy**



**Norm
Brecke**



**Anne
Rutherford**



**Rev. Robert
Jones, Sr.**

Learn More at
storyandsongarts.org/festival



Scan to get your
tickets today!

Story & Song
CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE

Amelia Island, Florida





Places to EAT in Mt Dora

*Mention the Florida Storytelling Festival to restaurants!
Stories are food for the soul. Enjoy our festival full of stories,
but don't forget to feed the body...*

AT THE LAKESIDE INN:

Beauclaire Dining Room & Verandah at Lakeside Inn. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner right at the site of the festival events.

Tremain's Tavern at Lakeside Inn (Hotel Lobby).
Grab a drink and a casual meal.

WALK TO DOWNTOWN:

Back Porch Pizza
237 W. 4th Avenue, Suite One
Stone fired pizza and creative cocktails.

Magic Tea Market
118 E 4th Avenue
Boba teas & milk teas. Asian market and cafe.

Cody's on 4th
111 E 4th Ave
Coffee, baked goods, salads, sandwiches. Breakfast & lunch.

Mount Dora Marketplace
100 E 4th Ave & 334 N Donnelly
Multiple food vendors including BBQ, Beirut Bites, Shadrach's Pizza

Copacabana Cuban Cafe
320 Dora Drawdy Way
Homestyle Cuban cuisine and vegetarian options

The Salted Fry
342 Dora Drawdy Way
100% Gluten Free restaurant
Sandwiches, salads, fries

Foxtail Coffee Company
138 E 5th Ave
Drinks and light eats

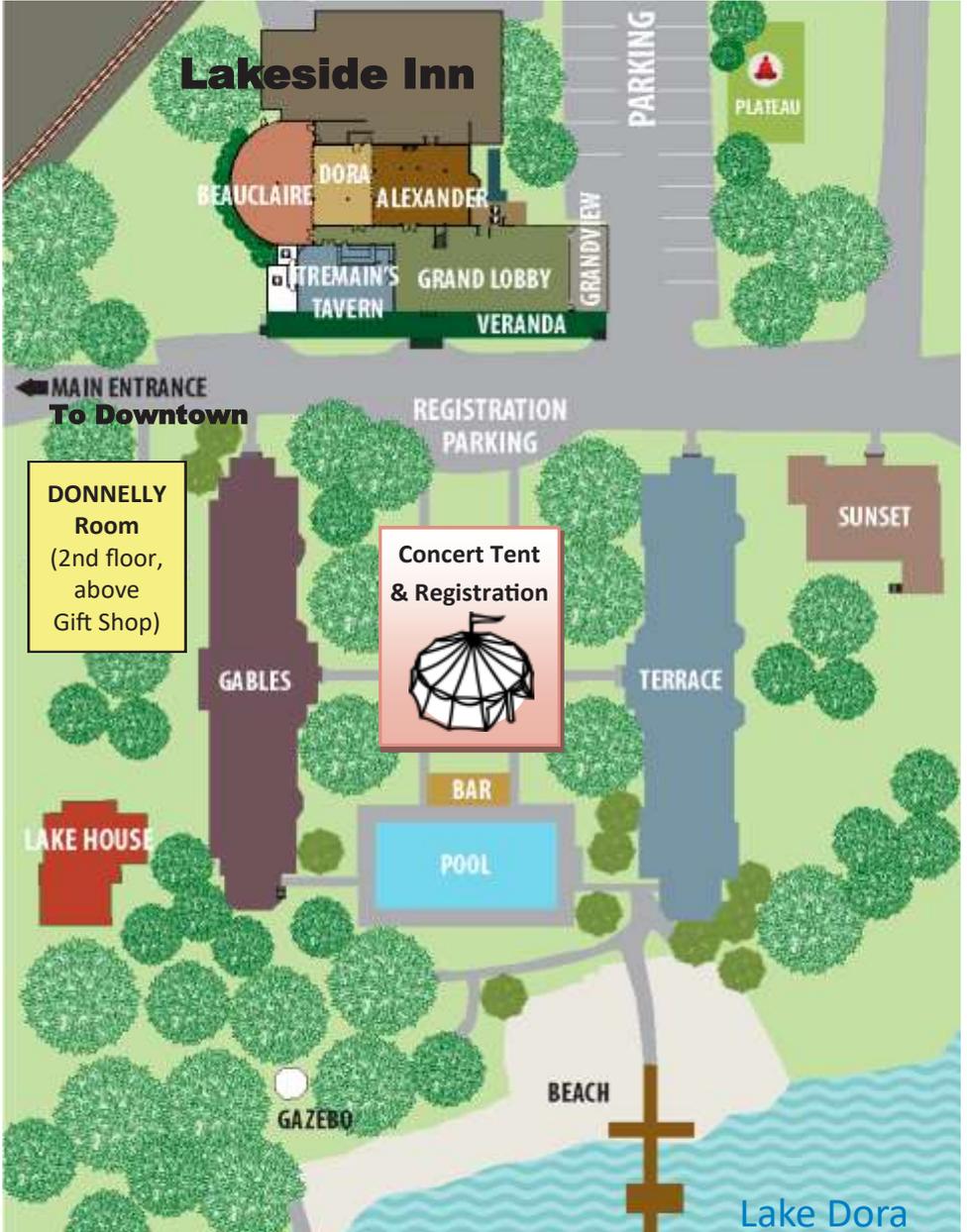
Stairway 2 Donnelly
440 N. Donnelly Street
Casual lunch and interesting supper dishes, including soups and salads and homemade family recipe lasagna.

JK Thai & Sushi
116 E 5th Avenue
Traditional Thai food including vegetarian options

Little Something Different
426 N. Donnelly Street
Fresh soups, salads and entrees.
Beer & wine.

THE FESTIVAL GROUNDS

It's all here, on the grounds of lovely Lakeside Inn. Please don't hesitate to contact the Front Desk if you encounter any issues with lodging. Mount Dora welcomes you! The downtown shops and establishments are within easy walking distance.... enjoy your stay.



We're Back Next Year!
Florida Storytelling Festival
January 28-31, 2027

**We're moving indoors
to the Mount Dora Music Hall...**

Featured Tellers



Gene Tagaban



Motoko



Andy Russell



Kelly Swanson



Florida Storytelling Association
Become a member and support
storytelling across Florida!
flstory.com



- The First National Bank of Mount Dora as Trustee -



Lakeside Inn

Mount Dora, Florida
Since 1883



REAL FLORIDA • REAL GLOBE



Mount Dora
Area Chamber Of Commerce



Florida Storytelling Festival

celebrates 42 years!

Thank you for joining our community.



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